

2.4.5 Racial, Ethnic and Special Groups

The majority race within the Project Corridor is Caucasian. However, African-Americans and other minority groups as a percent of total Project Corridor population increased from 7 to 11 percent between the 1980 and 1990 Census. Project Corridor racial composition is diversifying, although the geographic distribution of minority populations remains concentrated in Joliet. Exhibit 2-9 maps race distribution within the Study Area. Data mapped is the percent total population of individual minority populations to the block level. Individual minority populations mapped are U. S. Census defined minority classes of Asian, African American, Hispanic, American Indian and Other. Source data is the 1990 U.S. Census.

2.4.6 Major Employers

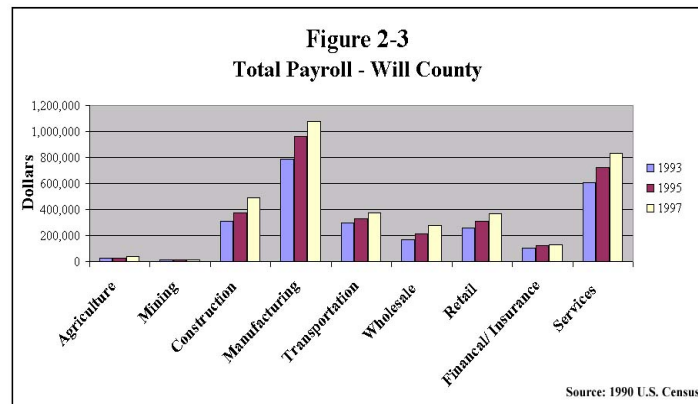
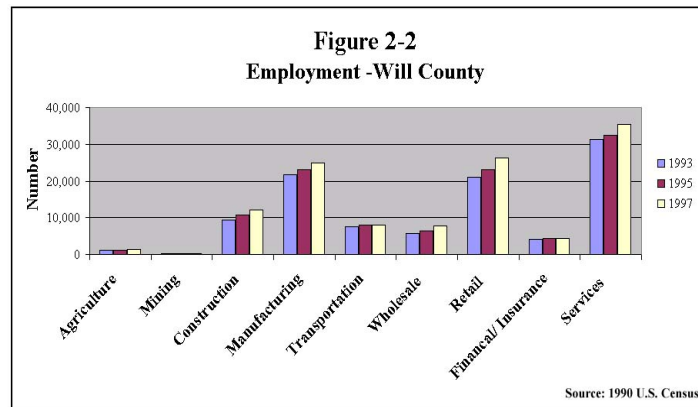
Since publication of the 1996 FEIS, 139 business entities developed or expanded facilities within Will County. Over 65 percent of these entities are located in the Project Corridor and the City of Joliet. Major new employers include Sprint PCS (1,200 employees) and Tellabs, Inc (1,063 employees) in Bolingbrook and Sharp Electronics (600 employees) in Romeoville. Appendix B, Table B-3 lists the size and location of major employers within the Project Corridor.

2.4.7 Economic Bases

The economic base of the Project Corridor is composed of three core employment sectors: service, retail and manufacturing. Within Will County, these core sectors represented 72 percent of the total jobs and over 63 percent of the annual payroll in 1997. Service and retail posted the highest growth rates between 1993 and 1997. While agriculture is important in terms of overall land use, it accounts for a small fraction of county employment and payroll (Figures 2-2 and 2-3).

Total jobs within Will County increased 20 percent between 1992 and 1998 with an average annual growth rate of 3 percent.

Refer to [1996 FEIS, Section 2.3.3](#) for additional economic base data.



2.5 Public Services and Facilities

Table 2-8 inventories public services and facilities proposed, under construction or completed within the Project Corridor since publication of the 1996 FEIS. Notable are 11